

ASSEMBLY, No. 5029

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 7, 2019

Sponsored by:

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SYNOPSIS

Requires New Jersey Office on Minority and Multicultural Health to study racial disparities on sexual and reproductive health of African-American women.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/19/2019)

1 AN ACT concerning the New Jersey Office on Minority and
2 Multicultural Health and supplementing P.L.1991, c.401 (C.26:2-
3 160 et seq.).
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*
7

8 1. a. The New Jersey Office on Minority and Multicultural
9 Health shall study the effects of racial and ethnic disparities on the
10 sexual and reproductive health of African-American women.

11 The purpose of the study shall be to:

12 (1) identify Statewide and regional trends, patterns, and racial
13 and ethnic disparities in adverse health outcomes, and medical, non-
14 medical, and system-related factors that may affect the sexual and
15 reproductive health of African-American women;

16 (2) review the extent to which the effects of racial and ethnic
17 disparities on the sexual and reproductive health of African-
18 American women in a geographic area indicate the need to increase
19 access to health care services among racial and ethnic populations
20 in that area; and

21 (3) identify ways to reduce or eliminate racial and ethnic
22 disparities that affect the sexual and reproductive health of African-
23 American women.

24 b. In conducting the study, the office may seek the advice of
25 persons specializing in the fields of women's health, minority
26 health advocacy, or other related fields.

27 c. Within one year after the date of enactment of this act, the
28 board shall prepare and submit to the Governor and, pursuant to
29 section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature, a
30 report containing the study's findings concerning the effects of
31 racial and ethnic disparities on the sexual and reproductive health of
32 African-American women and recommendations for legislative or
33 other actions that can be undertaken to:

34 (1) improve the sexual and reproductive health of African-
35 American women in this State;

36 (2) reduce or eliminate racial and ethnic disparities that affect
37 the sexual and reproductive health of African-American women;
38 and

39 (3) increase access to high quality health care services among
40 African-American women in the following priority areas:
41 childbirth; breast, cervical, and ovarian cancer screening;
42 HIV/AIDS; hepatitis C; and other sexually transmitted diseases.

43 d. The office may prepare and submit additional reports when
44 the board deems it appropriate, and each report, with the exception
45 of the first report prepared under this section, shall additionally
46 identify the extent to which the board's prior recommendations have
47 been successfully implemented in practice and the apparent impact
48 that the implementation of such recommended changes has had on

1 the sexual and reproductive health of African-American women in
2 the preceding years.

3

4 2. The office shall adopt regulations pursuant to the
5 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
6 seq.) necessary to effectuate the purposes of this act.

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8 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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13 This bill requires the New Jersey Office of Minority and
14 Multicultural Health established pursuant to P.L.1991, c.401,
15 (C.26:2-160 et seq.) to study of the effects of racial and ethnic
16 disparities on the sexual and reproductive health of African-
17 American women.

18 The purpose of the study would be to: identify Statewide and
19 regional trends, patterns, and racial and ethnic disparities in adverse
20 health outcomes, and medical, non-medical, and system-related
21 factors that may affect the sexual and reproductive health of
22 African-American women; review the extent to which the effects of
23 racial and ethnic disparities on the sexual and reproductive health of
24 African-American women in a geographic area indicate the need to
25 increase access to health care services among racial and ethnic
26 populations in that area; and identify ways to reduce or eliminate
27 racial and ethnic disparities that affect the sexual and reproductive
28 health of African-American women.

29 When conducting the study, the office would be allowed to seek
30 the advice of persons specializing in the fields of women's health,
31 minority health advocacy, or other related fields.

32 The bill stipulates that within one year of the enactment of the
33 bill, the office would prepare and submit to the Governor and the
34 Legislature a report containing the study's findings concerning the
35 effects of racial and ethnic disparities on the sexual and
36 reproductive health of African-American women and
37 recommendations for legislative or other actions that could be taken
38 to: improve the sexual and reproductive health of African-American
39 women in this State; reduce or eliminate racial and ethnic
40 disparities that affect the sexual and reproductive health of African-
41 American women; and increase access to high quality health care
42 services among African-American women in the following priority
43 areas: childbirth; breast, cervical, and ovarian cancer screening;
44 HIV/AIDS; hepatitis C; and other sexually transmitted diseases.

45 Each report prepared by the office pursuant to the bill, with the
46 exception of the first report, would identify the extent to which the
47 board's prior recommendations have been successfully
48 implemented and the impact the implementation of the
49 recommended changes has had on African-American women's
50 sexual and reproductive health in the preceding years.